Medical mission brings needed care to San Joaquin for 28th year

By Scott Lenoir

“Seeing humanity in a different culture helped me grow,” said Iva Perkins, a young African American woman, while sitting on the floor of the San Pedro Sula International Airport waiting for her flight home.

Perkins was one of 31 team members from the Diocese of Mississippi and the Diocese of Honduras who spent five days serving the needs of the poorest of the poor in Honduras. The Central American nation is the second poorest country in the western hemisphere next to Haiti.

Mississippi and Honduras partnered together for the 28th year last February to bring much needed medical, dental, eye care and veterinarian care to the small village of San Joaquin which is a hub for several other villages in the mountainous region of Santa Barbara. Chapel of the Cross in Madison sponsored the mission for the last two years under the leadership of Chris Scott and Frances Christian. Next year, St. Peter’s, Oxford is the hosting parish for two years.

“I thought I had it rough growing up,” reflected Perkins on her first trip to Honduras. She is a Certified Nursing Assistant in Jackson. “Seeing the people of San Joaquin changed me. I grew up this week. It was a very meaningful experience.”

Native Honduran Dr. Paola Segura, 32, an orthodontist in Puerto Cortes, began working with the medical mission seventeen years ago when she was a teenager at St. John’s Episcopal School.

Dr. Paola worked as a translator in the dental clinic for many years and that experience led to her vocation.

Although unable to be on the mission this year, Segura helped out with some of the complicated logistics in getting needed equipment and supplies for the mission.

When Segura read the mission statistics posted on Facebook after the team arrived home, she wrote: “You could be the only doctors some of these people get to see throughout the year. A big thank you to all of your families who allow you to come. I pray that you may continue to do this for many, many more years!”

Dr. Lance Johnson, a dentist from Cleveland, was a part of the 2011 team. This was his second mission trip. His first trip took place 17 years ago and Paola Segura was his translator in the clinic.

“The development of the village is astounding,” said Johnson, “It’s amazing. The people are so much healthier than when I came 17 years ago.”

Dr. Chip Leggett, a dentist and a 25 year veteran of the mission, attends church in the Parish of Mediator/Redeemer in McComb and Magnolia. Leggett’s presence is legendary among generations of children in village who call for “Chipi Loco” to do the famous Chicken dance which-well, you just gotta see it and the editor won’t write about the whole “Hotty Toddly” thing.

Like Johnson, Leggett too has reflected a lot about the many changes in San Joaquin. “They have been both physical and spiritual in nature. I am amazed at all the new epiphanies that just show up. My favorite pastime there is playing with the children. I feel the powerful love of God in their love for me and my teammates. That love fills my heart so full each year that it spills over in sharing the love of Christ here in Mississippi.”

Dr. Andy Shores, a veterinary neurosurgeon by trade and a 10 year veteran of the mission stated, “The general condition of the animals and the compassion of the people toward their animals has improved significantly over the last decade.”

Additional members of this year’s veterinarian clinic were two of Shores’s former students: Dr. Kathy Kram, a veteran of many trips and the 2012 HMM chair person; also Shores’s daughter, Dr. Lauren Shores of Dallas, Texas joined the 2011 team. Shores says that the team is working on new ways of developing a program that will provide a level of sustainability for animal care through the year.

Cassie Cole is a nurse from Denver, Colorado and has Mississippi roots. She led the team’s dental sealant effort. Cole has made several trips and echoes many of the sentiments of other team members.

“Arriving in the village of San Joaquin always feels like coming home. The excitement and joy of the children’s faces is enough to never want to leave that place. I see God mostly in their eyes, as their eyes truly smile. It is such a blessing to experience such love and grace with people some cannot even communicate with due to a language barrier.”

Honduras Medical Mission, Continued on page 6
Notes & Quotes
By Jim Carrington

A couple of thoughts before moving into the Notes and Quotes for this month. First of all, thanks to all of you who have placed me on your mailing list/email list for your newsletters. For those who haven’t, please take time to add me to your lists. Also, you might want to review how many copies you are sending and take the time to add me to your lists. Also, you might increase in costs for paper, ink and postage, reducing the number by even 2 or 3 can over time save the parish some money. Your placing me on your mailing list can also help our editor save on gasoline by eliminating his trip to my house. I know Scott would appreciate it.

My home address is 44 Moss Forest Circle, Jackson, MS 39211. My email address is jimcarrington@att.net. Again, thanks to those who have taken the time in making the change to include me on your lists.

Speaking of time, it is almost time to make that annual change in our clocks. Sunday, March 13 will see the beginning of Daylight Saving Time. Just remember to “spring forward one hour” when you go to bed Saturday night. If you forget you might just find yourself an hour early for the Sunday service.

With Lent rapidly approaching parishes across the state are gearing up for a variety of Lenten activities. Every Wednesday in Lent, MEDIATOR/REDEEMER, Magnolia, will be hosting a Lenten Study and Soup Supper where they will read and discuss the book The Last Week by John Dominic Crossan and Marcus Borg. “Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts” is the theme of the Lenten Discipleship series at NATIVITY, Greenwood. They will be conducting both a morning and evening session on Wednesday’s during Lent.

ST. PAUL’S, Columbus will be providing an opportunity for introspective reflection each day of Lent with daily Noonday Prayer and a light Lenten Lunch each Wednesday.

ST. JAMES, Greenville will be conducting a Lenten study of four novels that grapple with faith in a serious way. This will be held starting the second Sunday of Lent at the Adult Forum. A unique Lenten Church Pilgrimage will be held by MEDIATOR, Meridian. On March 31, a bus will leave Meridian to tour and share a discovery lesson about St. Mary’s in Enterprise. St. Francis of Assisi in Philadelphia, Grace Church in Canton and St. Mark’s in Jackson. Each of these churches has its own story and its own architectural and decorative uniqueness. MEDIATOR will also be sponsoring a bus trip to the Ave Maria Grotto in Cullman, Alabama during Lent. Also, MEDIATOR will host Ann Jaffe, a Holocaust Survivor, to do a lecture as she returns to Meridian for one night’s visit on April 6.

ALL SAINTS’, Grenada will be conducting a Wednesday Lenten series featuring a light soup meal and exploration of ways to pray with the whole self - body, mind and spirit. Featured presentations will be “Praying the Labyrinth,” Praying with our Hinds,” “Praying in Color with Lectio Divina,” and “Praying thru Breath and Song.”

Each Wednesday in Lent, beginning on March 16, INCARNATION, West Point conduct Holy Eucharist, Lenten supper and an educational program on Servant Ministry.

“It is what it is - 2011 Girls Weekend Away - and it is all Good.” This is the TRINITY, Natchez Girls Weekend to Gray Center and the Big House. Linda Nelson will lead a study of the book “A Tree Full of Angels” by Macrina Wiederkehr.

The EYC at ST. JAMES, Greenville, has scheduled a trip to the HEIFER Ranch in Perryville, Arkansas. The Heifer Ranch is a learning center which fosters the idea that one person can make a difference in ending world poverty and hunger. They will be making a joint trip with the youth group of Greenville’s First Presbyterian Church.

ST. STEPHENS, Indiana who will host a group of students from Sewanee who will be coming to Mississippi to do some work at the B.B. King Museum and on other projects in the Delta area.

ST. JAMES’, Jackson will be presenting a Concert Series in March and April. March 4 will feature “An Evening with Pierre Bensusan”, an outstanding guitarist, and on April 1, “An Evening of Singin’ and Storytellin’ with Jim White. Caroline Herring and Sam Baker.” All concerts will be preceded by a special dinner. Plans are in place at GRACE CHURCH, Canton for a Lenten Series entitle “Meeting God in the Valleys and Mountaintops of our Lives.” The first of the speakers for the series is Neil White of Oxford, the author of In the Sanctuary of Outcasts.

RESURRECTION, Starkville will conduct a Lenten study based on the book “Finding Our Way Again: The Return of the Ancient Practices.” The focus will be on the portion of the book which describes and reflects on spiritual practices, especially, contemplative, communal and missional practices.

At RESURRECTION, Starkville - The diocesan commitment to addressing racism includes activities across the diocese. Anti-racism training is an important part of this work. Diocesan Council on several occasions has required that church leaders participate in anti-racism training. Over the past ten years, training sessions have been held in the Diocese of Mississippi, several at Gray Center and St. Andrews, Jackson. Recently, an effort is to bring the training to the people by scheduling two such events each year at different parishes in the diocese. On March 25 and 26, Resurrection will host the first training of the year. Training will be Friday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. and Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the parish hall.

Below are St. John’s, Pascagoula Lay Worship Leaders whom were unintentionally omitted from the Feb. issue of the MSE:

Chester V. Dobrowski Jr., Jean Guentz, Kay N. McBroom, Robert A. McDonald, Mary P. Warfield.
January 25 - Spoke and visited at breakfast for state legislators at Galloway United Methodist Church. This annual event is sponsored by the United Methodist Church, the Roman Catholic Church and the Episcopal Church.

Staff meetings later in the morning. In office the rest of the day. Early evening conference call with members of the Standing Committee on Evangelism and Domestic Mission.

January 26 - Finished work on address and sermon for Diocesan Council. In office most of the afternoon.

January 27 - Travel with staff to the Convention Center to get a feel for the space we will be using this weekend for Council. Working lunch with staff as we go over details for the coming weekend. In office the remainder of the day.

January 28 - Begin moving things downtown in preparation for the arrival of council participants this evening. Meet with the local press and media in the early afternoon.

Spend some time with first time delegates to Council, then excuse myself to prepare for the opening service.

Opening service at Council is festive and colorful. I give the opening address and we place in nomination those we will choose for our diocesan leadership in the coming year. This year’s theme is the “Spirit of Mission.”

Big party at the King Edward Hotel follows.

January 29 - Up early for a full day of Council business. Large number of vendors, well attended workshops and overall positive spirit marks the day.

Barbeque and party in the evening at St. James’ Church, one of this year’s hosts, is a very joyous occasion.

January 30 - Closing Eucharist at Council attracts 2,000 Episcopalians from throughout the diocese. It is a time of deep joy and recommitment to the claim on us in baptism. It is our baptism that gives us the “Spirit of Mission.”

Very tired (I had hurt my back prior to Council) but feeling so very grateful for being a part of this special church and diocese.

January 31 - Day off. Office is closed for two days following Diocesan Council.

February 1 - Day off.

February 2 - Return to office. Meeting with the liturgical planning group for the service of Repentance and Reconciliation at the Cathedral in May.

In office thru the afternoon until I travel with Canon Johnson to Natchez for the Celebration of a New Ministry with the congregation of Trinity Church and their new rector, The Rev. Walton Jones.

Home to Jackson late.

February 3 - Meet with group to discuss a new model for the Bishop’s Mission Corps to be launched this fall. Appointment with Ms. Lollie Everett, our Companion Diocese Coordinator, prior to her trip to Panama.

Drive to Hattiesburg in icy conditions to visit with the vestry of Trinity Church. Weather forces me to spend the night in Hattiesburg.

February 4 - Return to Jackson in time to pick up the Rev. Dr. Kathy Grieb at the airport. Dr. Grieb, from Virginia Theological Seminary, will be the presenter at our Gray Center Conference on “The Role of Scripture and the Anglican Covenant.”

Good crowd joins us in the evening for a serious discussion on the Anglican Communion and the function of the proposed Covenant within the Communion.

February 5 - As the conference on the Anglican Covenant concludes at Gray Center, I drive to Cleveland prior to my visitations on Sunday. Nice dinner with the Rev. Bailey Norman and wife, Sara. Overnight in Cleveland.

February 6 - Drive to Rosedale for Eucharist at Grace Church. I preach and celebrate and have a nice visit with this small but faithful congregation.

Drive back to Cleveland with Father Norman where I teach an adult class prior to the main service. I preach, celebrate, confirm 12, receive 1 and reaffirm 1 in the midst of an overflow and enthusiastic congregation. Lunch in the newly remodeled and expanded parish house.

Following lunch, I drive to Indianola where I have a “make-up” visitation due to the snow and ice last month. I preach, celebrate, confirm 2 and bless new doors into the church. Good crowd, especially considering that it’s Super Bowl Sunday. Reception follows the service as we complete everything in time for kickoff!

Home to Jackson in time to catch the second half of the game.

February 7 - Attend the visitation and funeral at St. Phillips, Jackson, of Ms. Alice Latham, mother of the Rev. Ann Whicker. “May she go from strength to strength in the life of perfect service...”

Conference call to begin work on the Title IV Task Force. Lots of work to do in a very short time.

February 8 - Staff meetings in the morning. Afternoon appointments with the Rev. Deacon Carol Spencer and 2 aspirants for holy orders in the Episcopal Church.

Late afternoon meeting with the Gray Center Executive Committee.

February 9 - Morning appointment with Ms. Lynn Rondal. Leave in the afternoon for the Coast. At the Church of the Redeemer, Biloxi, I celebrate, preach, baptize 3, confirm 24 and receive 2 in a wonderful service with participants from six of the Coast Convocation Churches. Very happy and joyous occasion despite the terrible weather.

Dinner with the Rev. Harold Roberts, coordinator of this Convocation Service. Overnight in Biloxi.

February 10 - Appointments on the Coast with the Rev. Melanie Lemburg, the Rev. Dennis Ryan and the Rev. Chris Colby and a youth minister resource.

In the afternoon, I bless and dedicate the Gail Keenan Fine Arts Center at Coast Episcopal School. Joyous time and another moment of renewal for this special area.

Overnight in Biloxi.

March 2011
And One was a Priest

By Janet C. Nail

When I was growing up, I was a Brooklyn Dodgers fan. I could always find games on the radio, I scored over the box score on the sports page. And the Dodger who was my favorite was Pee Wee Reese.

He was actually more than a favorite; he was my hero. I thought he was no only a superb shortstop, he was the nicest human being I had ever read about.

Therefore, my ears pricked up when a public service presentation came on the radio. A group of boys were playing ball, and they began quarrelling. Eventually, racial epithets were thrown. But Pee Wee Reese and Jackie Robinson happened to be passing by, and they stopped to remonstrate, telling the boys that the color of one's skin means nothing, it is the quality of his character that matters.

This was pretty radical in the South, but if Pee Wee Reese said it, I was ready to believe it.

The Rt. Rev. Duncan M. Gray, Jr., is a Cardinals fan; he probably wasn’t listening to Pee Wee Reese.

He was listening to God.

AND ONE WAS A PRIEST: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF DUNCAN M. GRAY JR. by Araminta Stone Johnston (University Press of Mississippi, 2011) is the story of the former bishop, but it is also the story of the Civil Rights Movement in Mississippi. But then, the stories are intertwined.

The book opened with the turmoil on campus in 1962, as James Meredith dared to register at the University of Mississippi. Duncan Gray had mounted the base of the Confederate monument on the campus to plead with the students to go back to their dorms, to stop the violence. But his voice of reason was drowned by the years of segregation, the shouts of those whose hatred and fear could not allow this “outrage” to continue.

This act of peacemaking did not spring up out of thin air. Mrs. Johnston leaves the future bishop in the rioting and the hate to begin to see where his courage began.

Duncan Gray Jr. grew up in a family of comfortable privilege, not rich but comfortable. His grandfather, William Gray, was a political writer and newspaper editor. When he died, Theodore G. Bilbo was one of the honorary pallbearers at his funeral; the service was conducted by the Rt. Rev. William Mercer Green.

Duncan M. Gray, son of William, was already an Episcopal priest, and fourteen years later he succeeded William Mercer Green as bishop of Mississippi.

When Duncan Jr. went to Tulane in the Navy program, he told the Times-Picayune that there would be no more bishops in the Gray family. He had wrestled with the idea of going to seminary, but he felt that the Navy didn’t need priests, they needed engineers.

The war ended, and Gray went on to graduate as an engineer. He married Ruth Spivey and left for Pittsburgh and a job with Westinghouse.

Westinghouse had a program of moving engineers through different sections of the company to allow them to experience all aspects of the company. In Manufacturing and Repair, Gray met a man who gave him a new way of thinking. A black man worked cleaning motors, and as he talked to Gray, he revealed that he had been in the Army engineers, reaching the rank of major.

Gray was astounded. Here was an intelligent, experienced man-and the company had him doing a job that you could take someone off the street and train him to do in no time.

The man was not bitter; he simply said, “That’s just the way it is.” But Gray began to think this was the way things should be.

During this time, Gray still struggled with a call to the priesthood, but the idea of preparing sermons every week seemed overwhelming. Then he and Ruthie attended an Easter service where they heard “the sorriest sermon” he had ever heard. He said to Ruthie, “By George! If that preacher can do it, I can do it.”

The next step was Seminary. Despite having been out of school for seven years, Gray happily adjusted to being a student. He was noted for thoughtful and insightful papers, he was excited by his studies.

During the summer of 1952, the seminary faced a crisis. There was a need for Negro clergy, and the Florida Executive Council suggested re-establishing a Theological Seminary for Negro candidates to the ministry. But the times they were a-changin’, and the Department of Christian Social Relations said there would be no all Negro seminary, but that the existing seminaries would be integrated.

The struggle was more gentlymanly than the riots of the sixties but it was no less intense. In the end the school reluctantly admitted the Rev. John M. Moncrief, rector of a parish in Orangeburg, South Carolina. Already a graduate of Fisk University and General Theological Seminary, he became the first African-American to enter the University of the South School of Theology.

After ordination, Gray’s first parish assignment was Calvary in Cleveland, along with Grace Church in Rosedale. In addition, he served as chaplain for the few Episcopal students at Delta State College.

Things were changing in the Delta. Black men and women who had experienced the military and defense work were not willing to go back to share-cropping. And leaders were emerging who would help them to find self-respect. These leaders became friends of Gray.

In Cleveland Duncan M. Gray began to speak out for the Black men and women in Mississippi, and he was not popular. His message and his life work said “segregation is incompatible with the Christian Gospel.” In print and in sermons, he reiterated the belief that we are all God’s children, and we should not oppress any other of God’s children.

In 1957, the Gray family moved to Oxford. It was a good town in which to raise a family, and they all enjoyed it. Duncan Gray continued his ministry to the outcasts, so much so that his son Duncan III thought, when he was told that he would have a new brother or sister, that they were going to adopt one of the people that his father brought home!

But 1961 brought James Meredith’s application to the University of Mississippi. At first the University was delighted to accept him, but then he wrote and revealed that he was Black. Then the university and the state government went into high gear to block his application.

Meanwhile, Duncan Gray began to preach sermons to prepare his congregation for the inevitable, that we must begin to accept that Black people will be equal. But it took a year before Meredith was enrolled and we all know about the rioting and the National Guard and the political posturing. (And there are still people who dislike Duncan Gray for his stand!)

After the violence, James Meredith dealt with the social attacks that almost derailed him (he is a stubborn and somewhat cranky man; he worked through it all). Gray also suffered some abuse for his stand. Unfortunately, Ruthie caught the brunt, as callers most often reached her, speewing hatred for Gray. But she always said, in her best Southern belle voice, “Thank you for calling, I will be sure to give him your message.”

The next crisis for Gray was his move to Meridian. The murders of Mickey Schwerner, James Chaney, and Andrew Goodman had given the state, and the county, a reputation as the most racist state in the union, it is true that the majority of white Mississippians did not support the violence; their sin was failure to resist it. Duncan M. Gray, Jr., was an exception.

In the midst of the fear and hatred, Gray was a shining light. He never backed down from speaking out. Even when the FBI had used spies to find the perpetrator of the worst bombings and shootings, he begged them not to set the trap intending to kill the man.

Mississippi has many dark stains in our history. Fortunately, we also have the example of the Rt. Rev. Duncan M. Gray, Jr., to show what a good man who stood up for his principles can accomplish.
As you read this we have finally come into the Season of Lent. For those of you who live on the coast, it has been a long Mardi Gras season. Lent is observed in about as many ways as there are people observing it. For many, it means “giving up” something. Giving up is good if what you are giving up is something that is slowing down your spiritual journey. If it is something you are merely giving up for Forty Days (less Sundays) then taking it up again, you might want to re-think what you are doing. Taking on something new is also O.K., but the same spiritual implications apply. The Reverend Dr. Bryan Owen, Canon for Parish Ministry at St. Andrew’s Cathedral, had some good definitions of the Lenten Observance last year at the beginning of Lent.

In the invitation to keep a holy Lent (BCP, p. 265), the Prayer Book invites us to observe the following practices to help prepare us in body, mind, and spirit for the joyful celebration of Easter:

- Self-examination and repentance
- Prayer
- Fasting
- Self-denial
- Reading and meditating on God’s holy Word
- Giving up or taking on something new

We look at our lives - at things done and left undone - in light of the Ten Commandments and the “Prayer is responding to God, by thought and by deeds, with or without words” (BCP, p. 856). The 40 days of Lent provide a unique opportunity for us to more deliberately respond to God, both in corporate worship and in making time each day (even just 5 minutes) for personal prayer.

Fasting is about abstaining from certain foods or behaviors to allow the body to regain its God-given orientation to health and wholeness. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are the two fast days of the Church calendar year. On those days, we are invited to abstain wholly or partially from all or certain foods.

Self-denial is another form of fasting that can be practiced throughout Lent. The operative question here is: “What foods or behaviors do I overindulge, that stand in the way of my relationship with God, and that I need to cut back on or cut out completely?”

Reading and meditating on God’s holy Word

God speaks to us in unique ways through the Bible. Follow the Daily Office lectionary, or pick one of the Gospels to read daily, and let the Holy Spirit shape your life more and more in the image and likeness of Jesus Christ.

These practices of preparation are time-tested ways for cultivating a deeper relationship with God. Experiment with these practices and find what works for you. And know that the clergy are available to assist you should you feel the need for further guidance.

Issacs honored in Gautier

The Rev. J. Hunter Issacs, Vicar of Saint Pierre’s Church in Gautier, was honored at the Clergy Appreciation Banquet hosted by the Gautier Civitan Club on February 17th. Each year, Civitan Clubs honor the clergy in their respective communities, in honor of the Four Navy Chaplains who died aboard the U.S.S. Dorchester in World War II.

“We selected Fr. Issacs because of his good work at St. Pierre’s and in the community,” said Civitan President, James Henry LeBetal who also serves as a Deacon at St. Pierre’s. LeBetal added that the Civitans honor clergy each year, across denominational lines.
Honduras Medical Mission

Each mission has a closing Holy Eucharist on Thursday evening. This year the service was complete with two baptisms, the blessing of a marriage and the announcement of a change in church leadership. Long-time Deacon Ramon Martinez has retired due to health reasons. The Very Rev. Hector Madrid, 52, is over 15 churches in the Santa Barbara Department (the region) and announced that Encarnacion Gutierrez will be in charge of the church in San Joaquin. Gutierrez will be the lay leader in charge with Fr. Madrid. Encarnacion finished his seminary training this year and will soon be ordained to the diaconate.

One of the best changes regarding the mission is the inclusion of several young people who, along with the young translators from Honduras, made a big difference in the team character and its ability to interact with local residents. Two pick up soccer games in the center of the village are memories the 2011 Team will never forget.

Gabriela (Gaby) Soto, 17, was one of five Honduran translators on the trip. Soto is from San Pedro Sula and 2011 marks her third year as a translator. Gaby welcomed the company of other teenagers from Mississippi: Douglas Peeples, Aubrey Flowers, Sissy Flowers, Sara Osbon, and Charlie Scott.

“I met such wonderful people who leave their families and change their lives completely for a whole week to spread love and help the needy. And also the people here, they made me change my way of viewing the world, not because they live in extreme poverty, but because even though they have nothing, at the same time they have everything. They are full of love, joy and they are so grateful with God for being alive.

“Being here has changed my way of thinking and my way living. I am more grateful than ever for my family, especially my parents, who have worked so hard to give me the life I have,” said Soto.

The statistics posted from this year’s mission are numbers that reflect a lot of hard work, awesome logistics and planning, along with a lot of love and thanksgiving to God.

Even though hampered by wet weather, power outages, cold showers, and transportation problems, most of the team, if not all, would do it again in a heartbeat.

To apply to be a part of the 2012 Honduras Medical Mission, log on to www.hondurasmedicalmission.net and download an application or call St. Peter’s Episcopal Church in Oxford to have an application set to you at 662-234-1269.

Below are the numbers released by 2011 Medical Mission Chair Chris Scott. Chapel of the Cross in Madison sponsored the mission for the last two years. The 2012 and 2013 missions will be hosted by St. Peter’s, Oxford under the leadership of Dr. Kathy Kvam.

Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi
Honduran Medical Mission
February 12-19, 2011

MEDICAL CLINIC
Patients-1661
Procedures-39
Diabetic Counsels-36
Glucometers-9

PHARMACY
Patients-1776
Prescriptions filled-8402

DENTAL
Patients-367
Extractions-1016

SEALANT
Patients-367
Sealants-1474

VETERINARY
Horses-518
Cows-628
Dogs-154
Other Animals-6

EYE
Patients-400
Glasses dispensed-473

CLERGY
Eucharist-2
Services-7
Baptisms-2
Marriage: Blessing-1

SUPPORT OPERATIONS
Buildings re-wired-4
Shower repairs-4
Toilet replaced-1
Metal Bunk Beds-4
Freezer-1
New Vet Clinic established.

Like the rest of the team, Honduran translator Gabriela Soto, 17, enjoyed playing with the children in the village.

Charlie Scott (white t-shirt) and Aubrey Flowers (gold t-shirt) set up for a goal in a pick-up soccer game in the center of San Joaquin.

Cheers for a goal among spectators Chris Scott (HMM Team Chair), Dr. Holly Peeples, Nurse Debbie Cole and Dr. Lance Johnson.

Dr. Andy Shores seeks treatment himself from a cut he got at the veterinarian clinic.

Dr. Chip Leggett examines a patient in the dental clinic.

Supreme Support Operations experts lead by Keith Kent work on the famous San Joaquin Hilton: power on, power off, on, off, ON!

Dr. Andy Shores, Dr. Lauren Shores, Guy Vice and Dr. Kathy Kvam settled into a new vet clinic at the end of the week complete with an adobe wood burning stove.


Cliff Osbon amazed children with the old separating thumb finger trick.

Cecil Allred pull a prescription in the very busy pharmacy. This year’s pharmacy was led by Bill Moody.

Villagers seeking doctors help surround the Dr. Gene Lee Clinic in San Joaquin.

Dr. Tell Flowers consults with a family in the medical clinic.
New DOK chapter organizes in Columbia

By Martha Stevens

A new chapter of the Order of The Daughters of The King held its first meeting February 6, 2011 in the church parish hall. The Meeting was led by the Rev. Catherine Rickett. The group planned a second meeting on Feb. 20th where part of the business will be to select a chapter name.

The Daughters of The King is an international religious order for women who are communicants of the Episcopal Church, churches in communion with it, and churches who are in the historic Episcopal. The Order’s purpose is to bring others into a living, loving relationship with Jesus, our Lord and Savior, and to help strengthen the spiritual life of our parishes and missions.

Those who join the Order must be willing to participate in a preparation period, and vow to accept The Rule of Life. Women from the Episcopal Church, Roman Catholic and Orthodox Churches may join or form their own chapters.

A Daughter pledges herself to a lifelong program of prayer, service and personal evangelism; she dedicates herself to the spread of Christ’s kingdom and she assists in strengthening the spiritual life of her parish. A Daughter vows to uphold the two parts of the Rule of Life of The Order: The Rule of Prayer and The Rule of Service. Through The Rule of Prayer, Daughters promise to pray daily for the spread of Christ’s kingdom, for God’s blessing on all members of The Order, and for the spiritual growth of their parishes.

Through The Rule of Service, Daughters regularly take part in the worship, study, and work of the church; undertake a personal program of evangelism in a conscientious effort to bring others into a personal relationship with Christ; and work with their clergy, as directed for the spiritual upbuilding of the parish.

The Order was established in 1885 on Easter Eve by Margaret J. Franklin. It grew out of her senior bible class for young women at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, now Church of the Resurrection, in New York City. This first chapter was called the Alpha Chapter. As a constant reminder of our vows, we wear daily the emblem of The Order a silver form of a modified Greek Fleury Cross. This is a pin worn over the heart on a chain around the neck. The horizontal Latin inscription, MAGNANIMETER CRUCEM SUSTINE, broadly means “with heart, mind, and spirit uphold and bear the cross”. The initials FHS, at the base of the cross mean FOR HIS SAKE.

The Order is a spiritual community in a busy world where women with similar interests can pray, study, share together, affirm ministries, and support each other. Members are present to each other in Christ’s love. If you are interested in learning more about The Daughters of The King, please contact your priest or log on to www.doknational.com.

Martha Stevens is a communicant of St. Stephen’s, Columbia.

St. Thomas Diamondhead drama group offers Lenten plays

By Bill White

The St. Thomas Diamondhead in house drama group, “The Amazing Praisers,” is continuing its performance of Christian dramatic productions at the church. Formed in 2007, the group has presented eleven shows, plays and short subjects, complete with costumes, scenery, and special effects.

Last year during Lent the group offered an inspiring interpretation of the Last Supper. This year, on April 6 and April 13, the Amazing Praisers will offer two performances, The Garden and It Is Finished, to complete the story of Christ’s Passion. All performers, costumers, stage crew, carpenters, and make-up specialists are members of the church. The director is Susan White.

The Rev. Bill White is the rector of St. Thomas, Diamondhead.
Mediator Meridian Seeds of Faith Announces John Dominic Crossan as 2011 Speaker

Over the past 15 years, the Church of the Mediator has had some of the most outstanding theologians, authors and spiritual leaders in America speak at its Seeds of Faith Conference. A short list includes Marcus Borg, Jack and Christine Spong, Barbara Brown Taylor, Lawrence Kushner and Steven Charleston. The May 20 - 22, 2011 conference will feature John Dominic Crossan.

John Dominic Crossan was born Nenagh, Co. Tipperary, Ireland, in 1934. He was educated in Ireland and the United States, received a doctorate of Divinity from Maynooth College, Ireland, in 1959, and did post-doctoral research at the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome from 1959 to 1961, and the Ecole Biblique in Jerusalem from 1965 to 1967. He was a member of a thirteenth-century Roman Catholic religious order, the Servites, from 1950 to 1969 and an ordained priest from 1957 to 1969. He joined DePaul University, Chicago, in 1969 and remained there until 1995. He is now a Professor Emeritus in its Department of Religious Studies. Dr. Crossan is co-chair of the Jesus Seminar from 1985 to 1996 as it met in twice-annual meetings to debate the historicity of the life of Jesus in the gospels.

In the last forty years, Dr. Crossan has written twenty-five books on the historical Jesus, earliest Christianity, and the historical Paul. He has lectured to lay and scholarly audiences across the United States as well as in Europe, Australia and New Zealand, South America, Japan and South Africa. He is frequently interviewed on radio and television. His most recent book, The Greatest Prayer: Rediscovering the Revolutionary Message of the Lord’s Prayer, was published in September 2010, and will be the basis of his talks at this conference.

The Seeds of Faith Conference began as an outreach in spiritual formation by the Education for Ministry (EFM) participants at the Mediator. It has continued to grow and to provide provoking, often challenging, new ways of thinking and looking at what it means to be a Christian in today’s world. The schedule for the conference begins Friday, May 20, 2011, at 5 p.m. with a free mini Labyrinth workshop for those who are interested in learning about and walking the outdoor labyrinth. At 6 p.m., registration begins, with a wine and cheese reception, followed by the first session at 7. On Saturday morning, registration continues at 8 a.m., and a Continental breakfast will be provided. The day will be divided by 3 more lectures, lunch, and opportunities for breaks and book signing. The event ends with Holy Eucharist on Sunday morning; Dr. Crossan will give the homily. The cost for the Conference, reception, breakfast and lunch is $65.00. The Hilton Garden Inn and the Hampton Inn are offering reduced rates for participants.

For more information, please contact Barbara Thomas at bbthomas68@comcast.net, or call the Church of the Mediator office at 601-483-3959.

Diocese seeks to support Episcopal Diocese of Haiti

By Dave Kelly

In Mississippi, the Haiti Appeal is designed to run during Lent, but because Lent is fast coming upon us, you might wish to focus on a special offering on May 8 which Bishop Gray has designated ‘Hope for Haiti Sunday.’ We are aware this is Mothers’ Day and think that encouragement to honor mothers through such a gift would be very much appreciated. Please use this website for bulletin inserts, posters, videos, newsletter copy and more.

The Episcopal Diocese of Haiti—the largest Diocese in the Episcopal Church—is in ruins. While the people of Haiti struggle to rebuild their nation, the Episcopal Church is uniting to rebuild our Church in Haiti, beginning at the center. Please join the effort. People turn to the church during times of trouble for practical help as well as spiritual strength. Within days of the earthquake in Haiti, people flocked to the grounds of Holy Trinity Cathedral for food, shelter, and a safe place to stay. You can be a leader in rebuilding the central pillar of a support system that once provided spiritual, educational, and medical care to hundreds of thousands of Haitians.

DONATE ONLINE at http://rebuildhaiti.dioms.org/donate or MAIL YOUR DONATION to: Diocese of Mississippi P.O. Box 23107 Jackson, MS 39225-3107

Dave Kelly, is a communicant of St. Andrew’s Cathedral and the Diocesan Coordinator for Rebuild our Church in Haiti.

The Center for Formation and Mission: Rooted in Prayer in March

March 18-20
Sanctuary: A Retreat for Women

How, as women of faith, do we seek, create, and provide sanctuary for ourselves and for others? How is sanctuary a place of healing, growth, and refuge? How do we envision and experience God as sanctuary in our lives and in the world?

We will gather at Gray Center in the Big House - itself a sanctuary in the lives of many! - to explore these questions and to spend a weekend in prayer, conversation, creativity, and reflection. The weekend will be lead by the Reverend Rfbh Ashton, Chaplain at Millsaps College, and the Reverend Jennifer Deaton, Chaplain at St. Andrew's Episcopal School.

The cost is $170 for double occupancy, and $185 for single occupancy.

March 24-26
Who Are You, God, and Who Am I?: A Lenten Silent Retreat

Who we are and whose we are is a question we live with throughout the weaving of the fabric of our lives. During this retreat we will share times in community and in solitude. We will seek out understanding of our images of God, naming the old and discovering the new. In the empty vessel of Lent we will place ourselves under the loving gaze of God so we may receive revelation of God’s images of us.

We will gather at Gray Center at 2:00 pm on Thursday, and conclude with lunch on Saturday. It will be led by Susannah Grubbs Carr and Richard Robbins. It is co-sponsored with the Center for Ministry at Millsaps College.

The cost is $195 for single occupancy.

Some scholarship assistance is available. For more information about these opportunities for spiritual formation, or to register for these events, please visit www.cffm.dioms.org or email the Rev. Jennifer Deaton, Chair of the CfFM Program Committee, at deaton@gosaints.org
Remember ERD during Lent

By Cathy Halford

The season of Lent is not only a time of looking inward and taking an inventory of where we have been and where we are going in our lives but also a time of looking beyond ourselves and taking inventory of the needs of others whether in our communities or thousands of miles away. Lent is a time in our church year when we are asked to work especially hard in spending more time with God in prayer, in reading the Bible, and in fasting or giving up something that is near and dear to us.

Can we possibly give up that latte that gets us going in the morning and put those few dollars in a jar toward a donation to our favorite organization or project? How about the time that we spend on Facebook and instead read to our children? What about that extra helping at dinnertime or dessert without, but it can also be a time of taking on something new, something out of the ordinary. When you are missing that "special" something or trying to talk yourself into that "something new", do what the Reverend Jennifer Deaton, Chaplain at St. Andrews, recommends: say a little prayer to God to give you that extra push, that extra incentive.

Let’s remember our brothers and sisters who are struggling and are counting on our generosity to help them in their times of struggle and support the programs of Episcopal Relief & Development. Whether your donations go toward Nets for Life, a well for clean water, micro-credit loans, or drought-resistant seeds, Matthew 25, the mission statement of Episcopal Relief & Development, says it all: ".....for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.....".

Let’s remember how our Lord struggled during those forty days and forty nights as he was tempted by the devil but worshiped only the Lord and served only H im. We serve H im by serving others.

Cathy Halford is the Diocese ERD representative and Deacon at All Saints’, Jackson.

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SCI Appoints Nation as new Lower Mississippi Chaplain

By Oliver Brewer

On March 1, the Rev. Michael Christopher Nation begins work at the Seamen’s Church Institute (SCI) as a chaplain for Ministry on the River, the nation’s only full-time pastoral care ministry on the Ohio and Lower Mississippi River systems. Operating from Vicksburg, MS where Nation served as rector of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church for over 9 years. The new SCI chaplain ministers to mariners working in the Lower Mississippi River region. He succeeds the Rev. Michael Hammett who left SCI last year.

Living and working in the city of Vicksburg has wrapped Nation up in the maritime industry. On the Mississippi, Vicksburg functions as a hub of river commerce with several river transportation companies operating in the area. Not surprisingly, Nation already knew about SCI. In fact, his former charge, the Church Of The Holy Trinity in Vicksburg, functions as part of a network of churches committed to helping the Institute called River Friendly Churches.

An effective communicator, Nation hosts a local AM radio program called “All About Vicksburg” in which he interviews city leaders, uncovering happenings in the area. Similarly, in his new appointment as chaplain, Nation seeks to engage with the river community. He says he has committed himself to learn a “new language” so that he can communicate skillfully with those he will call his new colleagues.

To help him get started, Steve Golding, President of Golding Barge Line (GBL), recently took Nation on board the MV Melody Golding, GBL’s flagship. Nation watched and took mental notes eagerly. “I’m putting my listening skills to work,” he said, “picking the brains of people in the industry to find out more about my new job.”

Speaking about what he has seen thus far, Nation noted, “I think it takes a unique person to be a mariner,” describing challenges of the dangerous work and being away from home and family. Nation brings 15 years of pastoral experience to the job, including coordinating the local American Red Cross’s request for chaplains after Hurricane Katrina. He says that he has a “natural interest” in the transportation business, growing up with parents working in the trucking industry. Nation looks forward to the convergence of these skills in what he calls the “front lines of ministry” as a river chaplain with SCI.

SCI’s President & Executive Director, the Rev. David M. Rider, says, “We believe that it takes a unique person to be a river chaplain ... just like Michael said ‘it takes a unique person to be mariner.’” Rider believes Nation’s talents and enthusiastic outlook hold great promise for SCI’s ministry to mariners on the Mississippi River. “With many gifts, Michael will skillfully help us serve the maritime community with the pastoral care on which they have come to depend.”

About SCI

Founded in 1834 and affiliated with the Episcopal Church, though nondenominational in terms of its trustees, staff and service to mariners, the Seamen’s Church Institute of New York & New Jersey (SCI) is the largest, most comprehensive mariners’ agency in North America. Annually, its chaplains visit thousands of vessels in the Port of New York and New Jersey, the Port of Oakland, and along 2,200 miles of America’s inland waterways. SCI’s maritime education facilities provide navigational training to nearly 1,600 mariners each year through simulator-based facilities located in Houston, TX and Paducah, KY. The Institute and its maritime attorneys are recognized as leading advocates for merchant mariners by the United States Government, including the US Congress, the US Coast Guard, and the Department of Homeland Security, as well as the United Nations, the International Maritime Organization, the International Labor Organization and maritime trade associations.

Oliver Brewer is the Director of Communications for SCI.

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Gibson Sims
By ENS staff, February 18, 2011

[Episcopal News Service] A guide to assist in the discussion and study of the Anglican Covenant has been released by the Anglican Communion Office.

The study guide and an accompanying question-and-answer document, available here “is intended for parishes, deaneries, dioceses or groups of individuals wishing to explore the covenant and the way it describes Anglican identity,” according to a press release.

A covenant first was proposed in 2004 as a way for the Anglican Communion to maintain unity amid differing viewpoints, especially concerning human sexuality issues and biblical interpretation.

The study guide — produced by a working group formed out of the Inter-Anglican Standing Committee on Unity Faith and Order — includes the text of the Anglican Covenant “interspersed with summaries of the material,” the release said.

The working group members are Bishop Victoria Matthews of Christchurch, New Zealand (convener); retired Bishop Kumara Ilangasinghe of Kurunagala, Church of Ceylon; and the Rev. Simon Oliver, associate professor of systematic theology, University of Nottingham.

In the Episcopal Church, all congregations are being encouraged to engage in discussion of the covenant before General Convention 2012.

Executive Council, at its June 2010 meeting, approved and commended an Anglican Covenant study guide, which can be downloaded in English here and in Spanish here.

General Convention 2009 passed Resolution D020 commending the covenant to the Episcopal Church’s dioceses for study and comment during the next triennium. It asked Executive Council to prepare a report to the 77th General Convention in 2012 that would include draft legislation concerning the church’s response to the covenant.

At the time of General Convention 2009, section 4 of the covenant still was being scrutinized after the Anglican Consultative Council, the communion’s main policy-making body, in May 2009 recommended appointing a working group to consider and consult with the communion’s provinces about its possible revision.

Representatives of the ACC decided that the latest draft needed more work before it could be presented to the provinces for adoption because the disciplinary process outlined in its fourth section had not received the same degree of consideration and comment by the communion’s 38 provincial churches that sections 1 through 3 had.

All four sections of the proposed Anglican Covenant were sent to the communion’s provinces for formal consideration on Dec. 18, 2009, after the Standing Committee of the Anglican Communion approved a revised version of the document’s text.
Coast Convocation has joint celebration!

Pictured above are Coast Convocation clergy and newly baptized and confirmed parishioners.

By Anne Harris

On February 9th five churches from the Coast Convocation gathered at the Church of the Redeemer in Biloxi for a joint service of confirmation and baptism. Three adults were baptized and twenty four were confirmed in a joyous celebration which included more than thirty musicians, led by Kevin Benefield from St John’s Ocean Springs. The recently dedicated Church of the Redeemer proved to be a flexible and beautiful liturgical space. The service began in the baptistry at the entrance to the nave and then flowed into the nave for the confirmation and Eucharist.

Participating churches were: St. John’s Ocean Springs, St. John’s Pascagoula, St Peter’s by the Sea, St. Pierre’s, and Church of the Redeemer.

A reception was held in the narthex to honor the newest members of our church.

Those baptized were:

David Glass and Jeffrey Slack (St. Peter’s by the Sea) and Andrew Wood (Church of the Redeemer).

Those confirmed in addition to the above were:

John, Pate, Wes, and Grace Clearman and Amanda Napolitano, Carla, David, and Maddy Keith, Mary Jane LeBlanc, and Karen Parks, (St. John’s Ocean Springs). 
Grover, Linda, and Hallie Grimes, (St. John’s Pascagoula).
Dorothy Blalock, Lester Denley Jr., Jonah Hudson and Julianne Wilson, (St Peter’s by the Sea).
Ruth Breland, William Finnicum, and Sarah Finnicum, (received), (St. Pierre’s).
Arnold and Sable Mayberry, and Logan Saini, (Church of the Redeemer).

Anne Harris is Associate Rector at St. John’s, Ocean Springs.

A Cursillo Leadership workshop was held at St. Philip’s on February 19. The workshop was designed to help prepare anyone desiring to lead a Cursillo weekend as rector or as Head ChaCha. Pictured (left to right) are current leaders of the Cursillo movement in Mississippi: Mary Berry, Diocesan Spiritual Director for Cursillo; Barbara McDonald, rector of the upcoming Cursillo Weekend #120; Nick Nichols, chairman of the Cursillo Secretariat; Nancy Walsh, Three Day Weekend representative on the Secretariat, and Shaula Hatley, Head ChaCha for #120 and Cursillo registrar.

Bishop Gray stands beside the Jordan River with four Mississippi priests who traveled to Israel and Jordan last month in a pilgrimage organized by Canon David Johnson of the diocesan staff. Pictured at Bethany-beyond-the-Jordan, the traditional baptismal site of Jesus, are (l-to-r) the Very Reverend Edward O’Connor, dean of St. Andrew’s Cathedral, Jackson; Canon Johnson; Bishop Gray; the Reverend Annie Elliott of St. Andrew’s, Jackson; and the Reverend Gates Elliott of Chapel of the Cross, Madison. The five were among 41 people who participated in the 10 day tour sponsored by the Diocese of Mississippi.

The Rev. Tim Jones (center), former rector of St. Paul’s in Corinth, who returned to his native England where he serves in York, visited The Diocese of Mississippi in February. Jones attended a conference/discussion on the Anglican Covenant at Gray Center with other diocesan clergy and lay leaders. Seated with Tim from left to right are the Rev. Robert Webberington, the Rev. Matt Rowe, the Rev. Chris Robinson, and the Rev. Betsy Baumgarten.

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